

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **H.3059**

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TO:	The Honorable Joe E. Brown, Chairman, House Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee		
FROM:	Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board		
ANALYSTS:	Kate Billing, R.J. Stein		
DATE:	February 8, 2005	SBD:	2005065

AUTHOR:	Representative Kirsh	PRIMARY CODE CITE:	44-7-67
SUBJECT:	Duties of a Patient Assistant		

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:
See Below

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:
See Below

BILL SUMMARY:

This Bill expands the duties of a patient assistant in a nursing home to allow them to provide feeding and hydration services to patients. The Bill also specifies that the patient assistant must have on-site supervision by a licensed healthcare professional and complete a training program as specified in the Bill.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

Health and Human Services (DHHS)

Medicaid accounts for about 75% of the nursing home industry in SC, or about 12,450 beds. If three patient assistants were utilized for every 100 beds, there would be a need to train approximately 374 patient assistants. DHHS estimates a training cost of \$411 per individual a 100% turnover rate annually. Therefore the estimated training cost is \$153,714. As these training costs would be reimbursable at the administrative matching rate of 50% Federal and 50% State, the estimated impact on the General Fund is \$76,857, and the estimated impact on Federal Medicaid Funds is \$76,857.

Department of Health & Environmental Control

The implementation and regulatory oversight associated with this legislation would require an additional 0.5 FTE for an Inspector at a cost of \$24,494 (including salary and fringe benefits).

Department of Mental Health

The Department does not plan to utilize patient assistants in the manner authorized by the Bill in its nursing homes.

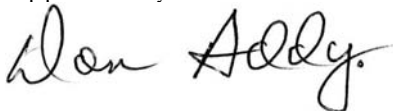
LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT:

None.

SPECIAL NOTES:

None.

Approved by:



Don Addy
Assistant Director, Office of State Budget